

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 8300 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USERDA  
GERMANTOWN ISLAMABAD JAKARTA MANILA MEXICO SANTIAGO  
BOGOTA TRIPOLI ALGIERS USUN GENEVA MOSCOW 29 SEPT

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IAEA VIENNA 8300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, AORG, IAEA, PARM, TECH

SUBJECT: IAEA 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, ELECTION TO BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS

SUMMARY: FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF 19TH GC ELECTED  
FOLLOWING MEMBER STATES TO TWO YEAR TERM ON AGENCY'S  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS: CHILE, COLOMBIA, DENMARK,  
NETHERLANDS, POLAND, YUGOSLAVIA, SENEGAL, LIBYA,  
BANGLADESH, PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA. ELECTION CLIMAXED  
HOTLY CONTESTED CAMPAIGN, UNPRECEDENTED IN AGENCY'S  
HISTORY, WHICH AT ONE TIME INVOLVED FOUR OUT OF  
ELEVEN VACANCIES ON BOARD. WHILE SOMEWHAT BATTERED,  
PRINCIPLE OF SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL CANDIDATES APPEARS  
TO HAVE SURVIVED. END SUMMARY.

1. AS DEPT AND SOME OTHER ADDRESSEES ALREADY AWARE,  
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GC FACED UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION ON EVE OF OPENING

OF 19TH REGULAR SESSION IN WHICH MEMBERS, LONG ACCUSTOMED TO ROUTINE ELECTION INVOLVING CANDIDATES PUT FORWARD BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION, FOUND THEMSELVES FACED WITH CONTESTS FOR FOUR OUT OF ELEVEN VACANCIES ON 34-MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS. THERE WERE THREE CANDIDATES FOR 2 SEATS REPRESENTING LATIN AMERICA, TWO CANDIDATES FOR 1 SEAT OCCUPIED BY MAHGREB STATES, TWO CANDIDATES FOR 1 SEAT ALLOCATED TO FAR EAST AND TWO CANDIDATES FOR SO-CALLED FLOATING SEAT SHARED BY THREE REGIONS. BY BALLOTING TPME, TWO CONTESTS HAD BEEN RESOLVED (LATIN AMERICA AND MAHGREB SEAT OF AFRICAN REGION). VOTE ON HREOAINING TWO CONTESTS WAS CLOSE BUT RESULTS TENDED TO REFLECT CONSERVATIVE AND, ON THE WHOLE, RESPONSIBLE CHOICE BY MAJORITY OF MEMBERS VOTING.

2. LATIN AMERICA:

AS REPORTED EARLIER, WHILE THE CANDIDACIES OF CHILE AND COLOMBIA FOR TWO LATIN AMERICAN VACANCIES APPEARED TO HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT OF LA COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN VIENNA, MEXICO REMAINED ADAMANT IN MAINTAINING ITS OWN CANDIDACY, REFUSING TO ATTEND LA CAUCUS MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND INSISTING THAT LA GROUP SHOULD MAKE NO ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES UNTIL ALL LA DELS ARRIVED IN VIENNA. STALLING TACTIC NEARLY WORKED, FOR WHEN CAUCUS MET ON SECOND DAY OF GC, MEXICO LOST TO COLOMBIA BY ONLY ONE VOTE. INTERESTINGLY, CHILE RECEIVED MORE VOTES FROM CAUCUS MEMBERS THAN EITHER COLOMBIA OR MEXICO. TWO DAYS LATER, APPARENTLY AFTER ASSESSING ITS CHANCES IN RUNNING AS MAVERICK, MEXICAN DEL OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED MEXICO'S WITHDRAWAL OF ITS CANDIDACY IN DEFERENCE TO REGIONAL CONSENSUS. PLENARY VOTE, WHILE IN LINE WITH REGIONAL RECOMMENDATION, REFLECTED CONSIDERABLY CONFUSION WITH 79 VOTES FOR COLUMBIA, 53 FOR CHILE, WITH 22 ABSTENTIONS AND 14 VOTES FOR MEXICO. NONETHELESS, MEXICO'S FINAL WITHDRAWAL WAS GRACEFUL AND IN KEEPING WITH LONG TRADITION IN BOARD ELECTIONS THAT CANDIDATES ARE REGIONALLY RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LY PUT FORWARD. (MISSION APPRECIATES MEXICO'S HELPFUL MESSAGE THIS SUBJECT.)

3. AFRICA:

TRADITIONALLY, SEATS ALLOCATED TO AFRICA ARE SPLIT EVENLY BY SUB-SAHARA REGION AND MAHGREB. SENEGAL HAD EARLIER IN YEAR MADE KNOWN ITS CANDIDACY

(UNCONTESTED) FOR SEAT BEING VACATED BY GABON AND LIBYA HAD ANNOUNCED ITS OWN WISH TO REPLACE SUDAN ON BOARD. MISSION WAS INFORMED THAT LIBYA'S CANDIDACY HAD SUPPORT OF ARAB LEAGUE. NONETHELESS, ALGERIA PUT FORWARD ITS OWN CANDIDACY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. ISSUE WAS NEATLY RESOLVED AT AFRICAN CAUCAS DURING GC, WHEN ALGERIA AGREED TO WITHDRAW IN DEFERENCE TO LIBYA. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WERE NO HARD FEELINGS AND SENEGAL AND LIBYA WERE ELECTED HANDILY.

4. FAR EAST:

CANDIDACY OF PHILIPPINES FOR FE SEAT BEING VACATED BY ROK WAS NOT SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED UNTIL WEEK PRECEDING GC, WHEN SOUTH VIETNAM ENTERED CONTEST CLAIMING SUPPORT OF HALF OF MEMBERS OF HETEROGENEOUS FE GROUP: MONGOLIA AND DPRK, LEAVING PHILIPPINES WITH SUPPORT OF JAPAN AND ROK, THE TWO REMAINING MEMBERS OF FE GROUP. PHILIPPINE DEL THEN LEARNED TO ITS DISMAY THAT USSR AND FE GROUP HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT VIETNAM, ERASING EARLIER ASSUMPTION THAT PHILIPPINE ELECTION TO BOARD WOULD BE FOREGONE CONCLUSION (HAVING DISPOSED OF AN EARLIER SHORT-LIVED CHALLENGE BY DPRK). BALLOTING ON THIS VACANCY GAVE SEAT TO PHILIPPINES BUT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE. RESULTS: PHILIPPINES 45., VIETNAM 37; WITH 41 VOTES NEEDED FOR ELECTION (82 VALID VOTES CAST). FILIPINOS WERE BADLY SHAKEN AT NEARLY HAVING BEEN UNHORSED DESPITE THEIR POSITION OF LEADERSHIP OF LDCS IN AGENCY AFFAIRS.

5. FLOATING SEAT:

THIS SEAT, CREATED IN 1973 BY REVISION OF ARTICLE VI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF IAEA STATUTE, IS ALLOCATED TO 3 REGIONS OF MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AND FAR EAST. SINCE SEAT IS NEW AND INVOLVES NOT REGIONAL CONSENSUS, BUT RATHER ROTATION AMONG REGIONS, CONTEST PRESENTED MEMBERSHIP WITH CHOICE OF 2 REGIONS, MESA AND SEAP (FAR EAST MEMBER HAS HELD SEAT SINCE 1973). IN THIS ELECTION, CANDIDATES WERE PAKISTAN (MESA) AND INDONESIA (SEAP) AND REST OF AGENCY MEMBERSHIP WAS LEFT TO DETERMINE AS BEST THEY COULD WHICH OF THE TWO ENJOYED MAJORITY SUPPORT WITHIN THESE VERY LARGE AND DISPARATE REGIONS. A GREAT NUMBER OF DELS HELD THE VIEW THAT SINCE THE MESA GROUP ALREADY OCCUPIED THE SECOND OF THE "FLOATING SEATS" ON THE BOARD (IRAQ), IT WOULD BE UNEQUITABLE TO AWARD THE OTHER "FLOATING SEAT" TO THE SAME REGION. OTHERS, INCLUDING THE

SOVIETS, DISAPPROVED OF CONSECUTIVE SERVICE  
ON THE BOARD BY VIRTUE OF SWITCHING FROM ONE CATEGORY  
OF MEMBERSHIP (REGIONAL SEAT) TO ANOTHER (FLOATING  
SEAT). VOTE WAS AGAIN CLOSE, WITH INDONESIA GARNERING  
43 OF 41 VOTES NEEDED FOR ELECTION. PAKISTAN RECEIVED  
36 VOTES AND BANGLADESH ONE VOTE.

6. ELECTION OF NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK TO TWO WE  
SEATS, POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA TO TWO EE SEATS, AND  
BANGLADESH TO MESA SEAT BEING VACATED BY PAKISTAN WAS  
NEARLY UNANIMOUS.

7. PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION AND REGIONAL CHOICE DID  
SURVIVE THE CONTEST, BUT ONLY BY HAIRSBREADTH. INTEREST  
IN AFFAIRS OF AGENCY HAS GROWN SINCE INDIAN EXPLOSION  
OF MAY 1974 AND HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED FURTHER BY NPT  
REVCON. THIS INTEREST IS CLEARLY EVIDENT IN DESIRE  
OF GROWING NUMBER OF STATES TO SERVE ON AGENCY'S  
POWERFUL BOARD OF GOVERNORS. IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO  
ASSUME THIS AMBITION WILL CONTINUE TO SPREAD AND THAT  
COMPETITION WITHIN REGIONAL GROUPS WILL LEAD TO  
WEAKENING OF ADHERENCE TO CONCEPT OF REGIONAL CONSENSUS.  
(SOVIETS AND THEIR COLLEAGUES VOTED AGAINST PHILIPPINES  
AND PAKISTAN SOLELY, THEY SAID, BECAUSE ROTATIONAL  
TURN OR NOT, THEY DISAPPROVED OF A MEMBER SERVING  
CONSECUTIVE ELECTED TERMS OF OFFICE ON BOARD.)  
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MISSION FORESEES A SIMILAR SITUATION FACING MEMBERS  
IN 1976 SESSION OF GC WHEN ELECTIONS ARE AGAIN  
HELD. TAPE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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